

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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## All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition XXXI at Alaska State Museum

From oil paintings to sculptures made of paper and twine, the 31<sup>st</sup> All Alaska Juried Exhibition shows off the creativity and artistry of Alaskans. The traveling exhibition, featuring 52 pieces by 51 artists, will open at the Alaska State Museum on December 1, 2006, and run through January 13, 2007. An opening reception will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 1, as part of the First Friday art walk. Admission is free. The Friends of the Alaska State Museum will provide refreshments.

The biennial statewide juried art exhibition was established to encourage the creation of new works by Alaskan artists. The exhibition's call for entries attracted more than 576 entries from 177 artists throughout the state. The chosen art represents a variety of media -- paintings, watercolors, prints, mixed media, drawings, photography and sculpture. The guest curator for the juried exhibition was Matthew Drutt, chief curator of The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. In his juror's statement, Drutt wrote, "If any conclusions can be drawn about the works in the show, the first is that very few, if any, of the artists were concerned with satire or political critique, something one finds, by contrast, in much contemporary art being made around the world. Instead, preoccupations with the landscape and natural phenomena or materials indigenous to Alaska predominate. This is not unique to this exhibition, but rather is something one finds frequently in shows of regional art from rural rather than metropolitan areas."

For the third time in a row, paintings by Juneau artist David Woodie were selected for inclusion in the juried show. His two paintings, *Boulder Creek* and *Longline*, are both in a unique narrative style suggesting a story but leaving it to viewers to fill in the gaps. Woodie, who worked for many years as a logger and fisherman, said the inspiration for both came from his time in the woods and on the water.

"All the time I was working in the woods and fishing, I thought of myself as an artist," said Woodie, who now paints full time and teaches drawing at the University of Alaska Southeast. "I was constantly looking around and thinking, 'Gosh, that would make a good painting.'"

An oil painting, *4th Avenue*, by Anchorage artist Marianne Elson Griffith, won the Juror's Choice Award.

The other award-winning pieces of art were:

### **\$500 Awards**

Fredrick Anderson, Naknek, *Self Portrait in Bush*, Japanese ink drawing on paper

Valerie Cline, Fairbanks, *Magical Thinking*, acrylic and ink on board

Don Decker, Anchorage, *Rain/Sun*, carved wood sculpture

Annie Duffy, Fairbanks, *Stay II*, cast paper, hemp twine and thread sculpture

Jessie Hedden, Fairbanks, *Untitled*, acrylic and paper collage

Will Rindom, Palmer, *Superstructure*, black and white photograph

### **Honorable Mentions**

Michael Conti, Anchorage, *Edward Albee, Valdez, Alaska, 2004*, gelatin silver print

Lorri Davis, Anchorage, *Isaac on the Kenai*, acrylic on canvas

Ted Herlinger, Anchorage, *Wellspring III*, inkjet on transparency over handmade paper

Ward Hulbert, *Way Too Long in a Yoga Pose*, mixed media on aluminum

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog and is touring the state for one year, visiting most of the major urban centers in Alaska.

The All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition is funded in part by a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; BP; the Anchorage Museum Association; and the Municipality of Anchorage.

The museum's winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, except holidays. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

Images from the exhibition are available. Contact Mark Daughhetee at 465-4819.

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